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NOTE: P.M. Lee will be on "Meet the Press" on Sunday, 22 October 1967.

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Man whom CIA tried to buy comes to U.S.

By William McGaffin
Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, a man the Central Intelligence Agency tried unsuccessfully to bribe, arrived here Tuesday for his first visit to Washington.

Lee's story, which he made public a couple of years ago, is a reminder of how CIA meddling can increase the difficulties of the United States as it attempts to maintain smooth diplomatic relations with key governments around the world.

The CIA, Lee disclosed, offered him \$3,300,000 in January of 1960 if he would release a CIA agent and would conceal the fact that the agent had been arrested for attempting to buy intelligence information.

UNDOUBTEDLY, the case would have left hard feelings had not Sec. of State Dean Rusk sent Lee a letter of apology on April 15, 1961. Rusk expressed his distress over the "improper activities" of U.S. officials and said that "the Kennedy administration... is now reviewing activities of these officials for disciplinary action."

When Lee broke the story in the late summer of 1965, he inadvertently contributed another chapter to the credibility gap — for the State Department at first denied that the story was true. This denial was echoed by James D. Bell, the U.S. ambassador to Malaysia.

Lee then called in reporters



Lee Kuan Yew

and showed them Rusk's letter of apology — and a highly embarrassed State Department admitted that Lee was right. Its spokesmen had not been "fully aware of the background of the incident," it said.

U. S. officials are stressing that Lee's visit has no connection with Britain's decision to close out its Singapore bastion. Obviously, however, it will be of considerable importance for the United States to be on good terms with the political figure who is known as "Mr. Singapore," in anticipation of the time when the British will no longer be there as a representative of the free world.

THE PRIME minister, 44, a member of the Peoples Ac-

tion Party, has held his post for nine years. He is being praised here for the "effective government" he runs—a government with a strong civil service and without corruption—as well as for the role he plays as leader of a regional co-operative movement in Asia.

While he maintains an independent, nonaligned foreign policy, he supports the U. S. war effort in Vietnam, it is reported, and regards it as "the key to the future of Southeast Asia."

In addition to conferences with the President and secretary of state, he will see the vice president and the secretary of defense. He will be the guest on "Meet the Press" next Sunday and will visit several American cities after he leaves Washington Thursday.

His schedule calls for him to spend next Tuesday in Chicago.

The personal qualities of Lee and his wife, who accompanied him, also have been singled out for special mention. Mr. and Mrs. Lee were both law graduates from Cambridge University in England. Lee was graduated with honors and he and his wife practiced law together.

On Lee's only other visit to the U.S. in 1962, he attended the UN General Assembly session but did not get to Washington. On this visit, which begins today, he is getting the red carpet treatment.

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